(c) Insurance claims under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) implemented at present, through General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) are worked out on the basis of yield data received from the State Government. As per the seasonality discipline for Tamil Nadu, the yield data for insurable crops for the year 2002-2003 is expected to be received between 31st March and 31st July, 2003 and claims if any, will be known thereafter.

Burning of sugarcane crops

2370. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the setting on ablaze the standing sugarcane crops by farmers in some parts of the country; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the demands of the farmers and what steps are being taken to avert unhappy situation in the crushing season of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Farmers of western Uttar Pradesh set ablaze the standing sugarcane in very nominal area to protest against non-starting of crushing of sugarcane by sugar mills. As per the information received from the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (who are the administrative Ministry for sugar industry) a large number of sugar mills have now started crushing. They have also established a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar to facilitate starting of crushing by mills.

Production of fodder

†2371. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of fodder for milch cattle in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total annual production of fodder in the country;

(c) the estimated requirement thereof; and

(d) the details of incentive scheme with Government to boost production of fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of fodder.

(b) and (c) The total annual production and estimated requirement of fodder in the country are as under:—

(in million tones)

Particulars	Availability	Requirement
Straw	523.61	632.61
Green fodder	573.50	830.12

(d) Under Central Minikit Testing Programme, fodder seed minikits of high yielding varieties of fodder crops are provided to farmers in different States for adoption and increasing fodder production. About 16.73 lakhs fodder seed minikits were distributed to the farmers during the Ninth Plan Period. During the current financial year 4 lakhs fodder minikits have been provided so far.

Regional Stations for forage Production and demonstration and Central Fodder Seed Production Farm located in different agro-climatic zones are imparting training to farmers and organizing demonstrations on modern agronomic practices for fodder production in different States.

Besides, Government of India has provided grant-in-aid of Rs. 1577.73 lakhs to the States during the Ninth Plan Period for strengthening of fodder and fodder seed farms, establishment of fodder banks, fodder seed production through registered growers, enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste, establishment of silvipasture system, development of grass land and sample survey for area, production and requirement of fodder.